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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The prayer was offered by the guest chaplain, Rev. Richard Anderson, First Presbyterian Church, Aurora, IL:

Let us pray. O mighty God, the source of all goodness, please bless those who are in positions of power and authority in this country. Bless the President and his family, all members of his Cabinet and all legislators in Congress. Enrich them with Your grace and fill them with Your spirit, that they may be governed with wisdom and godliness by these Your servants.

And watch over those who help form public opinion, the press and the broadcasting services; that we may be enabled to exercise our rights as citizens in a manner which is responsible and in accordance with Your will.

As the Ruler of all nations, may we represent You well as Your instruments of peace and justice to the world.

In the words of Abraham Lincoln, "In helping our neighbor to wholeness and freedom, we assure wholeness and freedom for ourselves. So shall we nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope of Earth." So help us God. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REV. RICHARD ANDERSON

(Mr. HASTERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome to this House and to introduce our guest chaplain for today, Pastor Dick Anderson of the First Presbyterian Church in Aurora, IL. He is a spiritual leader of one of the largest congregations in my 14th District of Illinois. I thank him for his message as we open this session.

First Presbyterian has taken an active role in the life of the community, and it is home for outreach ministries which include programs for at-risk teenagers and other young people.

It is also fitting that Pastor Anderson is here today on the 12th of February as we mark the birthday of one of our greatest Presidents, Abraham Lincoln. A noted student of Lincoln's speeches and writings, Pastor Anderson has masterfully portrayed our 16th President on literally hundreds of occasions throughout the State of Illinois and this Nation, including the reenactment last year of the great Lincoln-Douglas debates in Illinois.

As recently as yesterday he represented and portrayed Lincoln here in Washington, DC, on the celebration today of Lincoln's birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask you and my colleagues to join me in welcoming my friend, Pastor Dick Anderson, to our House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair will entertain 10 one-minutes on each side.

MEXICAN REPAYMENT OF LOANS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, headlines said: Bailout a success, Mexico repays Uncle Sam.

Yellow brick road time. Do not bet your pesos on it. Reports now say that all of the money used to repay the loan was borrowed at interest rates so high they would make John Gotti blush.

Folks, I say there is a big con game going on here. Mexico is in a shambles, and what is worse, the cancer from Mexico is spreading to Uncle Sam. Eighty percent of all narcotics are now coming across the border, and there are two giant sucking sounds here, folks: No. 1, American jobs going to Mexico; and, No. 2, Mexican cocaine going up American noses.

Beam me up. If this is a success, then General Custer at Little Big Horn's victory must have been called a victory.

Let us stop the propaganda. Let us get a trade policy with Mexico. Because the truth is, it simply sucks.

TAX RELIEF

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, it has become popular to say that there are no significant philosophical differences in this town anymore. I do not buy it. Take, for one small example, an exchange that took place here in Washington just yesterday. One of our distinguished colleagues, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH], asked President Clinton's Treasury Secretary a very good question yesterday: Why does the President propose to cut off the \$500 per child tax credit for any parent whose child reaches the age of 13? Why is it somehow less expensive for a working mom to care for a 12-year-old than it is to care for a 13-year-old? Well, said the Treasury Secretary,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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